



State of California  
**BUSINESS, CONSUMER SERVICES AND HOUSING AGENCY**



# **California Interagency Council on Homelessness**

## **Advisory Committee Meeting**

May 7, 2025

# Agenda

- I. Call to Order, Tribal Land Acknowledgement, and Roll Call
- II. Consent Calendar
- III. Executive Officer Updates
- IV. SB 914 Update
- V. Advisory Committee Wrap-Up
- VI. General Public Comments
- VII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

# I. Call to Order, Tribal Land Acknowledgement, and Roll Call

# Tribal Land Acknowledgement

We wish to acknowledge that Sacramento is the unceded homeland of the Southern Maidu, Valley and Plains Miwok, the Nisenan people, the Patwin Wintun people, and members of the Wilton Rancheria Tribe, who have inhabited this landscape since time immemorial.

We extend our gratitude to the ancestors of all California Native American Tribes and their descendants, as we recognize that wherever we are joining from in our virtual community, we are all on California Native American land.

# Committee Member Roll Call

- Please say "here" or "present"

## II. Consent Calendar

- Adoption of the Meeting Summary from the February 5th, 2025, Advisory Committee Meeting.

# Public Comment, Agenda Item II

## Consent Calendar

- If joining by Zoom, click the “raise hand icon”
- If connected by phone, press “\*9” to indicate that you would like to comment

# III. Executive Officer Updates



## IV. SB 914

- Updates on the implementation of Senate Bill 914
- Overview of common barriers to services experienced by unaccompanied women and survivors of domestic violence and their children
- Discussion of promoting cross-system partnerships

# Content Note: Acknowledging Sensitive Topics

- This session includes discussions about survivors of domestic violence, which may bring up strong emotions or difficult memories.
- Please feel free to mute, turn off your camera, step away, or do whatever you need to take care of yourself at any time.
- If you feel emotional while sharing, you're welcome to pause, take a break, or take your time- we honor your voice and your well-being.

# S.B. 914: The Homeless Equity for Left Behind Populations (HELP) Act

Over **69,000**  
survivors of domestic  
violence

&

Over **94,000** women  
not accompanied by  
children

accessed services in CoCs while experiencing homelessness in  
California

# Requirements of S.B. 914

- Set and measure progress towards goals to decrease the number, frequency, and duration of experiences of homelessness among domestic violence survivors and women not accompanied by children (“unaccompanied women”)
  - Evaluate goals at least every two years
- Decrease barriers to services and promote cross-systems partnerships
- Provide technical assistance (TA) to cities, counties, and CoCs to support development of local programs and plans that address the needs of these populations

# Populations of Focus

## Unaccompanied women

- Any adult woman who is experiencing homelessness in a household without children

## Domestic violence survivors

- Anyone who identifies as a survivor of domestic violence

## Children of domestic violence survivors

- Minors who experience homelessness in a household with a survivor

# Domestic Violence Services

- Victim Service Providers (VSPs): Organizations whose primary mission is to provide direct services to survivors of domestic violence
  - May not be fully integrated into a CoC's coordinated entry system
  - Restricted from sharing client-level data with other service providers in their community
- The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES) administers funding to VSPs through several programs, including the DV Housing First and DV Assistance Programs

# Completed & ongoing work

Developing measures	Analyzed data from HDIS, Cal OES and other sources	Completed
	Reviewed existing research	Completed
	Initial stakeholder engagements and formal tribal consultation	Completed
	Calculated baseline measures for required and most recommended HELP Act goals	Completed
Developing local and state department guidance	Surveying departments about how they are serving survivors and unaccompanied women	Ongoing
	Continuing engagement and feedback sessions with local partners and tribes	Ongoing
Publishing goals & progress	Calculating remaining baseline measures	Ongoing
	Nearing completion of a public dashboard	Ongoing

# Community engagement to date

	# of participants	# of sessions
Focus groups with survivors of domestic violence	31	3
Focus groups with unaccompanied women	30	2
Stakeholder engagement sessions with service providers & administrators	31	5
Key informant interviews	22	12
Tribal consultation	109 Federally Recognized Tribes Solicited	1
LEAB	11	3



# Goals from HELP Act statute

- Goal 1: Decreasing the number of survivors, their children, and unaccompanied women experiencing homelessness
- Goal 2a: Decreasing the duration of experiences of homelessness
- Goal 2b: Decreasing the frequency of experiences of homelessness
- Goal 3: Decreasing barriers to services through promoting cross-systems partnerships

# Goals from community engagement

- Goal 4: Increasing the percentage of people exiting to permanent housing
- Goal 5: Increasing the percentage of people who move into a sheltered setting after experiencing unsheltered homelessness
- Goal 6: Increasing retention of permanent housing (*measure forthcoming*)
- Goal 7: Increasing financial stability (*measure forthcoming*)

# Goal 3: Decreasing barriers to services through promoting cross-systems partnerships

Main barriers faced by DV survivors & unaccompanied women:

- Shelter access and safety
- Access to services
- Staff training
- Discrimination
- Lack of cross-system partnerships

# Goal 3: Barriers: Shelters

## Barriers

- Physically and emotionally unsafe shelters
- Not enough shelters for women:
  - without children
  - with older male children
  - with pets
  - trans/gender nonconforming

## Solutions

- Provide greater oversight of safety in shelters
- Adopt and enforce rules pertaining to accessibility for all genders
- In-depth training in trauma-informed care for shelter staff
- Increase shelters and services available to unaccompanied women and women with pets or older children

# Goal 3: Barriers: Access to Services

## Barriers

- Lack of information about services
- Lack of available services
- Difficult or re-traumatizing documentation requirements
- Assessment tools do not account for trauma and dangers faced by survivors
- Language barriers

## Solutions

- Create survivor-centered online and in-person service navigation tools and resource repositories
- Streamline referral process
- Provide supportive wrap-around services in more languages for longer amounts of time
- Reduce documentation and verification requirements, and provide assistance in gathering necessary documentation

# Goal 3: Barriers: Staff Training

## Barriers

- Providers lack training about available resources and services
- Providers lack trauma-informed training

## Solutions

- Improve training for providers on services and resources needed by and available for survivors and unaccompanied women
- Increase DV-informed, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive training across all systems that support people experiencing homelessness

# Goal 3: Barriers: Discrimination

## Barriers

- Discrimination by landlords against people with vouchers or subsidies, and screening out people with poor or no rental credit history
- Shelters discriminating on citizenship or immigration status
- Discrimination against trans or gender non-conforming people by providers and decision makers

## Solutions

- Hire advocates to work with landlords and property owners on behalf of clients
- Incentivize landlords
- Support clients in building credit/rental history
- Incorporate job training and support
- Understand citizenship requirements for work, benefits, housing, and services
- Provide training and education in gender-based violence, gender identity and intersectionality

# Strengthening Cross-Systems Partnerships:

DV survivors and unaccompanied women often interact with multiple systems (housing, DV services, health, behavioral health, social services). Coordination between these systems is essential for safety, stability, and equitable care.

## **Key Recommendations:**

- Establish or update memoranda of understanding(MOUs) and data-sharing agreements across sectors
- Case conference with staff across sectors
- Invest in joint training and cross-sector learning opportunities
- Co-locate services to improve access and coordination
- Develop streamlined intake, assessment, and referral processes



# Technical Assistance To Improve Cross-Systems Partnerships

Cal ICH plans to work on a variety of TA tools to support efforts to:

- Reduce barriers to services and improve cross-systems coordination

Including:

- A checklist for implementing best practices across shelters, services, housing, intake, and assessment
- Resources to support cross-systems coordination between providers and community partners
- Data dashboards that track progress and outcomes

# How Should We Implement TA to Support Goal 3?

- What topics are most important to include in the development of these resources?
- What's the best way to disseminate this TA to communities?
- What would support a successful rollout in your community?
- What are the best practices that you have seen work well in your community?
- How do we measure a decrease in barriers or an increase in cross-system partnerships?

# Next Steps

FY 25-26 and Ongoing

Solicit stakeholder and Tribal feedback to refine goals and methodology

Publish dashboard with goals and measures

Develop and provide TA to support cities, counties, tribes, and CoCs

Disseminate materials to state departments

Update dashboard with new data on a regular basis

# V. Advisory Committee Wrap-Up

- Future Advisory Committee configuration and onboarding

# Cal ICH Advisory Committee in Statute

Welfare and Institutions Section 8257(c)(1) states: *"The cochairs of the council shall appoint members to this advisory committee that reflects racial and gender diversity, and shall include the following:*

(1) A survivor of gender-based violence who formerly experienced homelessness.

**(2) Representatives of local agencies or organizations that participate in the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development's Continuum of Care Program.**

**(3) Partners with expertise in solutions to homelessness and best practices from other states.**

(4) Representatives of committees on:

a. African Americans

**b. Youth**

c. Survivors of gender-based violence.

(5) *A current or formerly homeless person who lives in California.*

(6) *A current or formerly homeless youth who lives in California.*

(7) *A current or formerly homeless person with a developmental disability.*

*...This advisory committee shall designate one of the above-described members to participate in every quarterly council meeting to provide a report to the council on advisory committee activities."*

# Cal ICH Advisory Committee Additional Expertise Recommended by Council

- Cal ICH **Lived Experience Advisory Board** (LEAB) members. (2)
- Representatives from Northern and Southern **California Tribal communities**. (2)
- A representative from a committee/organization that specifically serves **Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities**. (1)
- A representative from a committee/organization that specifically serves **families with minor children** experiencing homelessness. (1)
- A representative with expertise in homelessness services and best practices for **rural communities** in California. (1)
- A representative from a **statewide association** working on homelessness, such as CWDA, CBHDA, CHEAC, or CSAC. (2)
- Representatives from Northern and Southern California **academic research institutes**/centers. (2)
- A representative from a **Managed Care Plan**. (1)
- A representative from a committee/organization that specifically serves **older adults**. (1)
- A representative from a committee/organization that specializes in **reentry** services and coordination. (1)
- A representative from a committee/organization that specifically serves **people with physical disabilities**. (1)
- An affordable or permanent supportive **housing developer** that serves people experiencing homelessness. (1)

# Committee Discussion

- What opportunities did we miss to make this committee more impactful?
- Where do you feel we could have made better use of your insights and specific area of expertise?
- How can we improve the meeting structure to maximize outcomes?
- What are critical components to include in the orientation and onboarding of the new Advisory Committee?

# Committee Recognition

**Please join us at the next Cal ICH Council meeting for a final recognition of the work of this Advisory Committee cohort:**

**California Interagency Council on Homelessness Meeting**

June 4, 2025

1:00pm

CDE Office

1430 N Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Agenda item likely starting between 1:20 and 1:30. Join in person or online via Zoom.



Thank  
you!


# VI. General Public Comment

- If joining by Zoom, click the “raise hand icon”
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## VII. Final Remarks and Adjournment

- Next Council meeting: June 4, 2025 at 1:00 pm
- Next Advisory Committee meeting: August 6, 2025 at 1:00 pm

# Contact Information

- Cal ICH Website: <https://www.bcsh.ca.gov/calich>
- Questions: [calich@bcsh.ca.gov](mailto:calich@bcsh.ca.gov)
- Social Media
  -  [https://twitter.com/Cal\\_ICH](https://twitter.com/Cal_ICH)
  -  <https://facebook.com/CalifornialCH>
  -  <https://linkedin.com/company/california-interagency-council-on-homelessness>